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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

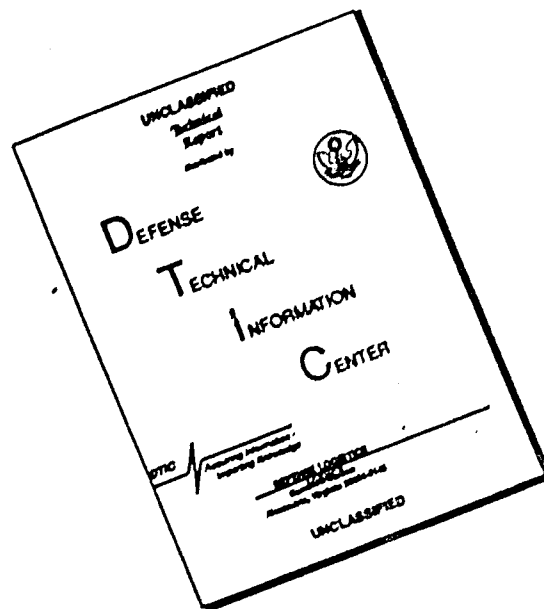
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 53D SIGNAL BATTALION (CORPS)
APO San Francisco 96266

53SI

14 November 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31
October 1966, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

(Handwritten initials)

AD827564

THRU: Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam
APO San Francisco 96266

STATEMENT #2 UNCLASSIFIED

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TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Forces Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. Section I. Significant Activities

a. The significant activities of the 53d Signal Battalion (Corps), during the reporting period, are placed in one of two categories; (1) base camp communications, and (2) field communications in support of tactical operations. These two categories are discussed below:

b. Base Camp Communications.

(1) Expansion of the existing base camp communications facilities at headquarters II Field Force Vietnam was apparent by the beginning of the reporting period. Immediate plans, in conjunction with the Signal Section, II Field Force, were drawn for expansion or replacement by fixed plant equipment of the following; underground cabling to service the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), installation of an SB-675 for patching and testing of sole user circuits, cabling for teletype circuits, re-location of the headquarters Communications center and HF radio park, and extension of an AB-216 tower from 72 feet in height to 120 feet.

FEB 28 1967

(2) On 9 October 1966 the completion of major projects was culminated in the re-location of the communications center from a series of vehicular shelters to an air conditioned building.

(3) The remainder of the period has been devoted to continual improvements in procedures and service.

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c. Field Communications in Support of Tactical Operations.

(1) The need for light weight multi-channel radio relay equipment was encountered early in August 1966 during planning for support of a 173d Airborne Brigade operation "Operation Toledo" which was to take place in the Eastern Field Force Sector. An ambulance had already been converted to house an AN/MRC-73 but a need existed for a radio relay terminal that could be airlifted by CH-47. To meet this need an AN/MRC-24 radio and an AN/TCC-7 carrier were mounted in a modified 3/4 ton trailer. A PU-286/U generator set on another 3/4 ton trailer would be used as a power source. These two trailers could be carried in a single CH-47 sortie. The 3/4 ton configuration was given a rapid field test and proved to be reliable except of the obvious lack of ground mobility unless a 3/4 ton truck was available.

(2) Because of the area in which "Operation Toledo" would take place a need arose for the establishment of a radio relay site. Also because of future planned troop deployments in the Xuan Loc area it was decided to establish a permanent relay site on Chau Chan Mountain approximately ten miles East of Xuan Loc. The planning for this relay commenced on 9 August 1966, and actual site occupancy commenced on 11 August 1966. Establishment of the radio relay site is considered the major accomplishment during the period. A total of twenty-two CH-47 sorties were required to airlift three AN/MRC-54's, generators, and a twenty day supply of essential repair parts, POL, rations, and miscellaneous items. Twice weekly CH-47 re-supply sorties have been continuous. In order to insure supplies were available at Xuan Loc the Battalion had to organize and train teams to provide convoy protection. Three M-60 machine guns were mounted on 1/4 ton vehicles to provide this protection.

(3) In addition to Operation Toledo, the 53d Signal Battalion supported the 173d Airborne Brigade or its elements in three additional short field operations during the period.

a. The battalion was engaged in the following activities for the number of days shown, during the reporting periods:

- (1) Training - 0 days
- (2) Troop Movement - 0 days
- (3) Operations - 92 days

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2. Section II, Commander's Observations and Recommendations.

a. Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned):

See Incl I.

b. Part II, Recommendations:

(1) That multi-channel, lightweight, long range radio relay equipment using a frequency spectrum above the A Band, capable of being airlifted by CH-47 aircraft be developed.

(2) That the AN/MRC-73 organic to the Signal Battalion (Corps) be replaced by AN/MRC-69 as the AN/MRC-73 does not contain adequate spare or back-up equipment which is essential in areas where re-supply and maintenance are limited to the availability of aircraft.

1 Incl
Lessons Learned

Robert G. Wootley
ROBERT G. WOOLEY
LTC, SIG
Commanding

2

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LESSONS LEARNED

ITEM: Inadequacy of the AN/MRC-73 for Operations in Vietnam.

DISCUSSION: Radio relay terminals at outlying locations from the unit's base camp can normally only be regularly reached by aircraft or scheduled convoys. Because of the heat sensitive components in the AN/MRC-73 equipment failures are frequent, requiring immediate replacement. The AN/MRC-73 does not have any spare equipment therefore either a second AN/MRC-73 must be wasted as back-up or immediate air re-supply must be available.

OBSERVATION: A practicable solution to the inadequacies of the AN/MRC-73 would be replacement by the AN/MRC-69 which gives not only the vital back-up capability necessary but also the versatility the AN/MRC-73 lacks.

ITEM: Aerial supply and transportability of signal items.

DISCUSSION: Because aerial transportation, supply, and re-supply are vital to a signal unit's operations in Vietnam all officers need a better understanding of airlift availability, capabilities and limitations. This understanding would facilitate the preparation of equipment for airlift, insure the right aircraft was requested for the type equipment to be moved, and expedite loading of aircraft.

OBSERVATION: That a short period of instruction by qualified persons is needed for newly arrived officers in-country on aerial transportation and loading techniques to include, instruction on the nets, slings and other items available for sling loading of equipment.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1966, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65

DA, HQ II Field Force Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96266 8 JAN 1967

THRU: Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVC-DH, APO 96307

Commander in Chief, US Army Pacific, Attn: GPOP-MH, APO 96588

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Dept of the
Army, Washington, D.C., 20310

1. The Operational Report-Lessons Learned submitted by the 53D
Signal Battalion (Corps) for the quarter ending 31 October 1966 is
considered adequate and is forwarded herewith.

2. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs
with the comments and recommendations contained therein.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


WAYNE D. BLANTON
WO-W1, USA
Acting Asst AG

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AVHGC-DH (14 Nov 66)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFC-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 28 JAN 67

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 53d Signal Battalion as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments are as follows:

a. Reference Paragraph 2b(1), Part II, Section II, Page 3: Concur. The AN/MRC-115 has been developed to replace radio relay sets AN/MRC-73 and AN/MRC-69. The new equipment satisfies all recommendations made in this Operational Report. The AN/MRC-115 is scheduled for issue in RVN starting in 2d Qtr CY 68.

b. Reference Paragraph 2b(2), Part II, Section II, Page 3: Nonconcur. If the AN/MRC-73 and AN/MRC-69 are fully committed, then the limitations are correct as stated. The principle components of the AN/MRC-69 and 73 are no longer manufactured due to the introduction of the AN/MRC-115. Therefore, substitution is not feasible as suggested. As an interim measure this office is studying the feasibility of "stacking" the AN/TCC-7, pending arrival of the AN/MRC-115. The recommendations, based upon the results of these studies, will be duly promulgated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. J. THORNTON III
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
nc

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GPOP-OT (14 Nov 66)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 53d Sig Bn (Corps)

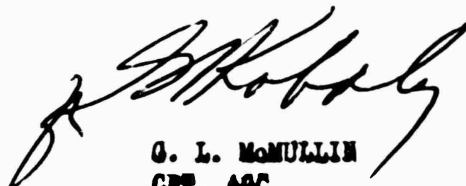
HQ, US A , PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 17 FEB 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

1 Incl
nc


G. L. McMULLIN
CPT, ASC
Asst AG

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